

**LOUISIANA TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1999**

Members present: J. Renea Austin, Bill Beyer, Tom Hagan, Butch Speer and Senator Tom Greene

Chairperson Renea Austin called the meeting to order. Marian Patterson called roll. Quorum was established. R. Austin called for motion for approval of the August 12 minutes. T. Hagan called for adoption of minutes. B. Beyer seconded motion.

R. Austin stated proposals would be heard from seven agencies. Each agency would be allowed 15 minutes for their presentation, followed by questions from the council members.

**LSU Medical Center – Shreveport**

**Project: Internet-based Videoconferencing for Education, Admin., and Healthcare**  
Dr. Lee Bairnsfather introduced himself, Bud Lanier (OTM), Gene Baker (LSU Ag)

Dr. Bairnsfather began the presentation by discussing videoconferencing. It is used primarily for distance learning. Cost savings are realized through reduced travel and lost work time, but the technology and equipment is very expensive. LSUMC-S's proposal uses the Internet to connect remote sites instead of current leased phone lines. This Internet based system will replace the older technology in 5 years, and LSUMC-S wants to position itself to achieve a smooth transition between the old system and the new.

LSUMC-S is requesting 10 Codec systems, which compress the video that is sent out. They are also requesting additional services for the multi-point control unit, which is the device that allows everybody in a videoconference to see everybody else. They have 2, but want additional boards to connect to the Codec systems. They are also requesting network devices, such as Ethernet switches. Finally, they are requesting network, hardware, and software management. LSUMC-S needs consultants to come in, install equipment, configure equipment, and properly train the LSUMC-S technical staff.

Dr. Bairnsfather indicated that the system, if implemented, would pay for itself in 2 years. LSUMC-S wants to adopt this technology because it is more cost effective and will be the dominant technology in videoconferencing in 5 years.

The budget proposal is \$765,000. The priorities were listed as:

1. Consultants
2. MCU services & network
3. Codec systems
4. Network switches

*T. Hagan asked why all 5 sites would get the new technology from the start, why not just 2 or 3 since it's a pilot.*

Dr. Bairnsfather stated if only 2 or 3 sites were included, important partners in the project would be dropped from technical training.

*B. Beyer raised the question about LSUMC-S using vendors for product and technical support.*

Dr. Bairnsfather explained LSUMC-S has not had favorable results from using vendors with regards to support.

Bud Lanier explained that an agency should be able to select the equipment that best meets their needs and can still interoperate. He continued and said that this project would be an evolution to the existing platform.

*R. Austin asked about the 24-month timeline, and also how much it would cost for another agency that wanted to come online?*

Dr. Bairnsfather explained once an agency has Internet access and a LAN, all that would be required would be a board and a PC. The real cost would be how many monitors, projection devices, etc.

Bud Lanier explained that this system would use the same connections from LaNet. The bandwidth would increase, but the embedded technology would be the same.

R. Austin called for a vote on the funding of the project. T. Hagan called for a motion to fully fund the project. B. Beyer seconded the motion. Without objection, the project was fully funded for \$765,000.

### **Department of Transportation and Development**

#### **Project: A GIS Based File/Document Mgmt. System for Engineering Design at Louisiana DOTD**

John Basilica (Undersecretary) introduced himself, Dom Cali, and Mark Suarez

J. Basilica discussed Geographical Information Systems (GIS). DOTD needs to make the best decision in a resource-constrained environment. There are more projects to undertake than resources available. GIS is a key technology in decision support. Ninety-five percent of the information DOTD deals with is spatially related (e.g. roads, bridges, etc). This information is now on the Internet, and relational databases are linked to it.

DOTD's proposal would integrate GIS and document management into one system. They want to implement the leading GIS software with the leading integrated document management

software to create one of the first GIS-based file document management systems for an engineering enterprise. This system will provide the base technology that will lead to the development of integrated ERP for all of DOTD.

The package DOTD is requesting is Spatial Enterprise. J. Basilica summarized a study that indicated its time and money saving capabilities. He explained that this package is just what DOTD needs. Funding for the project would be \$300K for software and \$600K for consultants.

### Questions

*T. Hagan raised the question about how innovative this proposal really was. DNR was doing the same thing.*

J. Basilica stated DOTD was aware of DNR's project, but explained that it was not the same.

*B. Beyer asked if the consultants would be attaching documents to the maps or will DOTD do that?*

DOTD explained that the linkages are already in place in the existing GIS.

*B. Beyer asked how many documents?*

"A gazillion" was J. Basilica's response. The documents are very complex engineering drawings. The new package will tie them together and the user will be able to access many types of different documents. Each project has a large quantity of documents associated with it.

*R. Austin asked what the total budget for DOTD was and is there an undesignated balance to draw on?*

J. Basilica stated the budget was \$1B and he did not know of any undesignated balance.

R. Austin called for a vote on the project. T. Hagan called non-funding of the project. B. Beyer seconded the motion. Without objection, the funding of the project was denied.

### Sabine River Authority

#### **Project: Sabine River Basin Information Mgmt. & Conservation Project**

Jim Pratt (Deputy Director) introduced himself, Carl Chance, and Brett Richard.

J. Pratt stated the objective of SRA's proposal is information management. The SRA wants to establish a common interface within the area of the basin through the internet, promote public

access to the information, and encourage the use of that information and to provide an internal network that will increase the efficiency of efforts & goals of the SRA.

J. Pratt turned the presentation over to C. Chance and B. Richard.

C. Chance discussed the growing scope of authority of the SRA, and the need that has arisen for new technology to meet increasing demands. He explained that the new network would facilitate internal management and allow outside access.

They pointed out the convenience of the new system, in that it would be Internet based. The information would be available through a common interface (Internet) and technologies could be combined and modified to fit unique applications.

C. Chance explained examples of information that would be made available to all those interested if the network was implemented.

*B. Beyer asked about the current IT infrastructure.*

C. Chance stated the current infrastructure is very limited and mixed. There is no cohesion.

*B. Beyer asked if this overhaul could be implemented without hired expertise?*

SRA anticipates using vendors and consultants to implement the system. Proposal provides for hiring an IS staff member after 2<sup>nd</sup> fiscal year.

*Will there be a linkage to the current kiosks being put in state parks?*

SRA said the plan calls for a linkage.

*Can the project be sustained without consultants?*

Consultants would be provided for well into the time that salaried personnel would arrive.

R. Austin expressed her concern about the project being too ambitious.

B. Beyer made a motion to not fund the project due to feasibility concerns. T. Hagan seconded the motion. Without objection, funding was denied.

### **LSU-BR/UNO Ogden Museum of Southern Art**

#### **Project: The Preservation of Louisiana's Treasures Program**

Dr. Randolph Delehanty (Exec. Director) introduced himself, Claude Rodriguez, and Ron Hay (LSU Computing Ctr.)

Dr. Delehanty stated The Ogden Museum of Southern Art is a partnership between LSU and UNO. They want to create a "museum in cyberspace". They want to digitize the art collection and the corresponding documentation and make it accessible on the Internet. The request is for \$198,000.

Dr. Delehanty said it was a very innovative project, and hoped it would be used as a model for new museums in the state. The museum has a collection of 1,400 pieces that are a complete survey of southern art. The collection contains a great deal of documentation on most of the work. The museum is converting the Taylor Library in Lee Circle into part of their museum. The idea is for someone to take a "virtual tour" of this building.

R. Hay of LSU Computing Services discussed the digitization efforts of the LSU Libraries. He said that they could digitize this art collection, index it for searches, and allow access by more than one abstract category.

*B. Beyer raised the question about optical storage.*

Mr. Hay said they will exploit all the optical technology they could.

T. Hagan called for funding of the project and B. Speer seconded the motion. Without objection, the project was fully funded at \$198,000.

### **University of New Orleans**

#### **Project: The Laboratory for IT and Spatial Analysis as a Tool for Enhancing Louisiana's Share of Census-Derived Federal Revenues"**

John Wildgen (Director of Lab for IT and Spatial Analysis) introduced himself, Lynne Dupont, and Vicki Butterworth.

J. Wildgen discussed the troubled state of the U.S. Census. He indicated its importance in federal representation and federal allocations. With a terrestrial mapping system known as "TIGER", a "price tag" has been put on citizens in terms of federal funds. Mr. Wildgen pointed out many defects in this system, most important being that terrestrial-mapping systems can't possibly keep up with the pace of development in some areas.

UNO requests a high precision surveillance (1-meter imagery) of areas of Louisiana where the Census may miss population. This will involve GIS analysis techniques on federal census data.

Funds involve acquisition of hardware and software, data, and use of graduate assistants and staff.

*T. Hagan asked about the availability of 1-meter imagery. If new 1-meter surveillance satellites do not go up, what happens to the project?*

J. Wildgen said he could use Russian spy data, which is 2-meter imagery.

*Will the Census Bureau accept it as a mechanism for correcting their counts?*

Mr. Wildgen stated he thinks they will, as it is the best way for them to get more accurate information.

Senator Greene commented on the importance of an accurate census count. He said improvement is necessary, especially after Louisiana lost a representative in 1990.

R. Austin commented that the Council does not fund personnel, and therefore the \$248,400 included in the proposal for personnel would not be awarded. Indirect costs would also be excluded. Indirect costs were determined to equal \$161,824, and therefore the revised request was \$449,700.

*B. Beyer asked J. Wildgen to elaborate on how this system will capture what the census misses.*

J. Wildgen said, as an example, that the Census is statistically oblivious to the recent urban sprawl in the areas surrounding Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

*R. Austin expressed her concern about funding a project that will use data that may or may not be there in the specified time period. What would be the adverse impact if they waited until they knew the data was definitely available?*

J. Wildgen wants to bring the material to the Census Bureau as soon as possible. He indicated that he can use existing Russian data immediately, and it is as recent as March 1998.

Senator Greene made a motion to approve the request at initial amount requested less indirect expenses and less personnel expenses. (\$449,700) R. Austin objects to the motion and a vote is requested.

Vote is as follows: B. Beyer, T. Hagan, B. Speer, Senator Greene voted yes and R. Austin No. The motion to approve the project for \$449,700 is carried.

## **Department of Health and Hospitals**

### **Project: OCDD Specialty Telemedicine Partnership**

Charles Castille (Undersecretary) introduces himself, Billy Yarbrough (project director), and Ken Hodge (Dep. Asst. Sec. Off. of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities).

C. Castille states the name of the proposal is “Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities Special Telemedicine Partnership”. Funding is requested in the amount of \$956,982. It is a partnership with LSUMC using innovative technology to achieve innovative telemedicine processes. It will enable persons with developmental disabilities to access specialty care.

Two of DHH’s developmental centers are under investigation by the Dept. of Justice due to a lack of availability of medical services and psychiatric services to clients. This project will provide some relief. DHH has set up a departmental task force to address the improvement of DD centers. DHH is implementing innovations at institutions under investigation and replicating those innovations for other institutions.

The ATM technology DHH wants to implement is innovative, but telemedicine itself has been around for some time. With ATM technology, access to specialty care will be available from all locations. Also, as a partnership with LSUMC, the hospitals can gain the expertise of LSUMC and their links to other specialties.

DHH summarized their case by indicating they cannot fund the project internally, it addresses an immediate need, and it is exploiting innovative technology.

*B. Beyer asked if this project was a continuation of a previous initiative?*

C. Castille stated no it was not. There was a previous experience that dealt with telemedicine on a very limited basis, but this was not a continuation of that.

*B. Beyer also questioned the similarity between videoconferencing and telemedicine.*

C. Castille stated the two are different in that videoconferencing is on the Internet. Telemedicine cannot be conducted over the Internet due to confidentiality issues.

*R. Austin asked if DHH would assume the ongoing costs after 2 years?*

Mr. Castille stated he would and wanted to build the costs into their budget.

R. Austin called for a vote on the proposal. T. Hagan called for approval of the proposal and B. Beyer seconded the motion. Without objection, the motion was carried and funding of \$956,982 was awarded.

## Department of Revenue

### **Project: Alcohol & Tobacco Control Web-based Interactive Info. System**

Brett Crawford (Undersecretary) introduced himself, Bill McCarthy, and Linda Greene. Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Greene are from the Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control.

B. Crawford stated ATC wants to transform a patchwork of system databases into a coherent entity that provides:

1. Electronic service delivery to taxpayers
2. Automated compliance history monitoring with automated citation issuance
3. Establish electronic links to relevant government databases through open systems architecture to provide two-way electronic data sharing.

The proposal will allow ATC to be more innovating and independent in creating its approach to developing the long term goals of implementing an integrated and comprehensive system that will enhance the public's safety, health, and increase revenues.

L. Greene pointed out 3 categories of goals. First, to improve services to taxpayers. Second, to increase operating efficiency and revenues. Third, to accomplish transition to automated processing that doesn't involve 'reinventing the wheel.'

ATC is the first Alcohol & Tobacco regulatory agency in the country to attempt this, and possibly the first state level regulatory agency to approach the task in this way. The technology they want to implement combines electronic information exchange through dedicated line & remote access Virtual Private Network (VPN). ATC wants point of contact equipment and a secure web server to provide statewide access at a reduced cost to dedicated lines. L. Greene then discussed specific tasks that could be completed under the new system.

ATC anticipates that the program would: Foster relationships with relevant government agencies, make ATC a leader among other alcohol and tobacco regulatory agencies, and provide a blueprint for other regulatory agencies in Louisiana and the rest of the country. The program would be operational by January 2001.

Funding requested is \$1M.

*T. Hagan asked the following questions:*

*Was ATC included in overall reengineering of DOR IS?*

B. Crawford stated no, the reengineering project focused on tax collection.

*Is the software available today?*



L. Greene stated they can use existing software, combine existing equipment, and apply.

*Will interfaces between other depts/agencies have to be built?*

L. Greene stated yes, and funding comes from architecture & design. Systems Integrator/Architect will determine how to do it.

*Who will be System Integrator?*

L. Greene stated it will be put out for bid.

*Was a pilot project considered?*

A pilot would not work, because that would limit what information could be accessed, which is the whole point of the project.

*B. Beyer asked why ATC was excluded from the reengineering project?*

B. Crawford stated for security issues, contractual issues, and funding.

*Is \$1M appropriate for such a project?*

The project is \$1.5M, with ATC putting up \$ 500,000 Mr. Crawford stated.

*Other ways to fund this so that the alcohol & tobacco industries bear the burden?*

This would require an act of the Louisiana Legislature to raise fees.

*Truly innovative or another badly needed online application?*

It is an online need, but it goes beyond that since it will serve as a pilot for other agencies.

*R. Austin raised the question regarding Personnel in the proposal.*

B. Crawford stated personnel have not been requested yet, but will in future.

*Ms. Austin stated, "There is a request for \$650,000 on design and architecture, and there will be only 1 technician?"*

Mr. Crawford stated there will be 1 permanent person for the system, plus ongoing DOR IT support.

Ms. Austin commented on the fact that this was a huge investment in something where, as of now, there would be nobody there to develop it day-to-day.

R. Austin called for a vote on the proposal. B. Beyer called for no funding on the proposal and T. Hagan seconded. The proposal was not funded.

This concluded the presentations by departments. R. Austin thanked each department.

### **Other Business**

R. Austin stated Tom Burkes with the Office of Information Resources has finished the Annual Report to the Legislature on the Tech. Innov. Fund. B. Speer stated along with the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate a copy should be sent to the Legislative Research Library.

Ms. Austin stated another meeting would not be called until after the legislative session and the council members agreed. She stated they will be notified when a date has been established.

With no further business, R. Austin called for a motion to adjourn. T. Hagan called for the motion and B. Speer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

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